McGillicuddy Humanities Center Newsletter, February 2023

Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR
After what seems like a week of snow days, the MHC welcomes the month of February in this spring semester. Our new undergraduate fellows are getting connected to the Center, having taken their official MHC portraits and attended their first seminars with our Humanities Specialist Brian Jansen. Our returning fellows are preparing for their public presentations of their projects, with some dates being finalized now for March and April.

(More info on those presentations and other sponsored events can be had below and by following the MHC on social media, as details on each event are confirmed. We are active on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook).

In addition to the pre-CCA-event lectures already announced for the spring (Marisa Solomon — before the Dreamer’s Circus performance, February 26 — and Dan Barrett — before the Lincoln Center Jazz concert, April 2), we are also sponsoring several guest visits tied to our Symposium theme for the year: *Recovery, Rediscovery, and Resilience*. UMaine alum Melissa Bragdon Caron and her bluegrass band will be in residence for classes and workshops, and will give a concert on March 28 in Minsky Recital Hall.

Later the same week, guest conductor and scholar Murry Sidlin will visit UMaine to discuss his work with the Defiant Requiem Foundation and its vision of "honoring the defiance and bravery of the prisoners in the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp (Terezín) during World War II." Details on both events will be announced in next month’s Newsletter.

As I mentioned, I encourage you to connect with the McGillicuddy Humanities Center online, and at our live events, as we use both avenues to keep the wide-ranging work of our students and faculty in the public eye. Many thanks for all of your support for this work.

Sincerely,

Beth Wiemann

[Image: "Winter Campus Scene" by Patrick Wine for the University of Maine Division of Marketing and Communications]

**MCGILLCUDDY HUMANITIES CENTER NEWS**

**MHC Welcomes Newest Cohort of Undergraduate Fellows**

The Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellowship is the flagship program of the MHC, offering a select group of talented juniors and seniors the opportunity to spend two semesters working independently on a humanities-based project under the supervision of a UMaine faculty member. Fellows receive $8,000 and, while working on their projects, attend meetings, collaborate and build relationships with their cohort, participate in interdisciplinary humanities programs, and act as student representatives of the humanities on campus and in the community.
We're pleased to introduce the newest cohort of MHC Fellows: Paige Allen, Sebastien Chamberlain, Abigail Roberts, and Willow Wind. This new group will join existing fellows Bell Gellis Morais, Brenna Jones, Paige McHatten and Donald Patten, who will see the culmination of their MHC projects in the coming months.

From left to right, incoming MHC Undergraduate Fellows Abigail Roberts, Sebastien Chamberlain, Paige Allen, and Willow Wind.

Incoming fellow Paige Allen, a sociology major from Mendon, Massachusetts, is working with assistant professor of family studies Daniel Puhlman on a project that explores “The Intersection of Ambitious Women and Parenting.” Drawing on semi-structured qualitative interviews with professionally successful women, Allen intends to study career-driven women in relation to their decisions to have children and their experiences of parenting. Allen’s work examines the concept of maternal regret, and asks whether—and if so, how—maternal regret is present in the lives of ambitious women and what this means for their children and work-life balance.

The inaugural Riordan Fellow and the first international affairs major to be awarded an MHC fellowship, Sebastien Chamberlain of Windsor, Maine, will spend two semesters working on a project titled “A Digital Cold War for Legitimacy: Pakistani and Indian Narrative Control Through Social Media.” Under the supervision of Asif Nawaz, assistant professor of history and international affairs, Chamberlain will use Twitter’s Application Programming Interface (API) to study social media in India and Pakistan; Chamberlain will look at the limits and authority these countries hold over their citizens’ social media activity and how these controls affect conflict in the contested territory of Kashmir.

Abigail Roberts, a senior English major from Damariscotta, Maine and this year’s Wiggin Fellow is
working on “The Otherworld of Morality: Verbal Contracts and Fairies in Medieval Romance.” Guided by faculty mentor and associate professor of English Sarah Harlan-Houghey, Roberts will be studying the moral implications of the “fairy contracts” which appear frequently in the literature of Medieval and Middle English, with particular interest in how these contracts might illuminate medieval culture and morality.

Finally, Willow Wind of Orono, a Communication major, has received her fellowship for a project titled “Conceptualizing and Enacting Gender Euphoria: Exploring Awareness and Action Across Gender Demographics.” As part of her honors thesis, Wind will be working with Liliana Herakova of the Department of Communication and Journalism to study how people relate to and experience gender. By conducting interviews with the general population and healthcare providers, inclusive of an artistic journaling component, Wind will inquire into how gender euphoria is operationalized in routine daily performances and in the more specific contexts of healthcare.

**MCGLILICDUDDY HUMANITIES CENTER
UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS AND FACULTY GRANTS**

**STUDENTS**
$4000 per semester to work on independent projects in the humanities
*for two consecutive semesters during your junior or senior year*

**FACULTY**
Up to $5000 to support faculty research, community and classroom engagement

**Deadlines March 17 and October 17 annually**

MHC, Office of International Programs, Name Spring 2023 Study Abroad Awards

The MHC and UMaine Office of International Programs (OIP) are pleased to announce the winners of its Global Perspectives for Humanities Exploration and Global Exploration and Language Opportunities Awards, each given to UMaine undergraduates completing a study abroad program during the semester of the award. This year's recipient of the Global Perspectives for Humanities Exploration Award is Eli Lake. The recipient of the Global Exploration and Language Opportunities Award is Teagan Russell.

The Global Perspectives for Humanities Explorations Fund was established at the University of Maine Foundation in 2018 and has been made possible by alumni and friends of the New England Universities in Salzburg Study Abroad Program in honor of the program founder, the late Dr. Josef Roggenbauer, longtime professor of German in the Department of Modern Languages and Classics. The fund was launched by Tracey Graffam-Dickson '93 and Jessica Canatsey '92, two friends who met at UMaine and shared a “life changing experience” when they participated in a travel abroad program in Salzburg. They believed experiencing a foreign culture was transformative in their lives, and so the women teamed up to initiate a fund providing opportunities for today’s undergraduates to live their own cultural adventure. Other donors have since joined in this initiative, and the funds invested will generate awards
and life-changing memories far into the future.

In honor of Herr Roggenbauer, who passed away in September 2022 and about whom Global Perspectives founder Tracey Graffam-Dickson offers a memorial below, the MHC and OIP will offer an additional award from the Global Perspectives for Humanities Explorations Fund for a student studying abroad in the Fall 2023 semester. That competition is now open, with an application deadline of March 31.

The newly established Global Exploration and Language Opportunities Fund, which is disbursing its first award in 2023, was set up by Charles Ryan ’84, to provide support to students wishing to expand their global views through international travel to Central and South American countries.

Eli Lakes, recipient of the Global Perspectives for Humanities Exploration Award, is a sophomore Marine Science major with a minor in Outdoor Leadership, from Trumansburg NY. He will be studying in Puerto Natales, Chile and with a particular focus on Patagonian ecology in a changing environment.

Teagan Russell, recipient of the inaugural Global Exploration and Language Opportunities Fund Award is a junior majoring in Ecology and Environmental Science with a concentration in Ecosystems Ecology originally from Plainville, Connecticut. Russell, a long-time enthusiast of everything outdoors, will be studying abroad in San Ramón, Costa Rica at the University of Costa Rica, taking classes that support her major, as well as classes that add to the cultural depth of her study abroad experience--including courses such as Tropical Conservation Biology, Spanish Language, Ecology and Population Biology, and Latin American Cuisine.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep sadness that the Alumni of the New England Universities of Salzburg Program and friends & Supporters of the Global Perspectives for Humanities Fund shared their final good-byes to a dear friend, mentor and inspiration, Dr. Josef Roggenbauer (aka Roggie). Surrounded by the love of his family and close friends, Josef Roggenbauer, passed away at the wise age of 94 on September 28, 2022, in his beloved city, Salzburg, Austria. He leaves behind his two dearest daughters and their families, including numerous grandchildren, many of whom continue to live in the New England area. Professor Roggenbauer was a Professor of German Studies and also held the position of the head of the foreign
language department during his 30+ year tenure at the University of Maine in Orono. It was here he started the New England Universities in Salzburg Study Abroad Program and through his partnerships with other land-grant universities, such as UNH, UConn, and URI, over 1000 students were able to participate in the program, most of whom experienced a full year living abroad and studying at the University of Salzburg, home to one of the most beautiful cities and countries in the world, Salzburg, Austria.

Surrounded by the beauty of the Austrian Alps, students were exposed to incredible music and theatre and experienced the life-changing opportunity of living in a new culture, communicating in a foreign language and studying with students from all over the world. This experience changed lives. We are forever grateful to Roggie and his tenacity and drive to make a difference in the lives of his students. It is in his name and memory that we work to further his belief in the value of cultural exchange and through the Global Perspectives for Humanities Fund by providing financial assistance to students who are interested in studying abroad. For more information about this program, please click here.

If you have memories of Professor Roggenbauer you would like to share or have your own study-abroad experiences, we would love to hear from you. You can contact the Friends of the Global Perspective Fund by contacting Tracey Graffam-Dickson at tgraffam@gmail.com and Jessica Canatsey at jessica.canatsey@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS
From February 16 through 19, MHC Undergraduate Fellow Bell Gellis will present a production of Patricia Wettig's play *F2M* live in the Cyrus Pavilion Theatre on the University of Maine campus. *F2M* is a dark comedy following the life of Parker as he navigates parents weekend when his not so accepting parents show up on a surprise visit.

The production is a portion of Gellis's MHC project, which asks, "Is Our Perception of Transphobia Blurred When We Are Confronted With It in a Familial Context?" Supervised by Rosalie Purvis, assistant professor of theatre and English, Gellis's work interrogates anti-trans-bias, as well as other prejudices and biases, to explore perceptions of transphobia across generations, gender, political affiliation and religion.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact mhc@maine.edu.
On Wednesday, March 1 at 12:00 pm (venue TBA), outgoing MHC Undergraduate Fellow Tom Pinette will present the results of his MHC project, titled "'This Land is Your Land and This Land Is My Land': The Role of the Roman Catholic Church in the Political and Cultural Lives of the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Nations in the Twentieth Century."

Over the course of his Fellowship, Tom has worked with faculty mentors John Bear Mitchell and Paige Mitchell to explore an area of Wabanaki history virtually ignored by Western academic institutions — the presence of the Church on Penobscot and Passamaquoddy reservations in the twentieth century.

This free, open-to-the-public discussion will be a culmination of a year’s worth of archival and ethnographic research. In addition to addressing the Wabanaki context of Christian missions, a presentation of Tom’s research findings will engage with larger questions of Catholic theology, Indigenous worldviews, and the ongoing campaign of colonisation.
Lord Hall Gallery on the University of Maine campus is pleased to announce the 2023 Faculty Exhibition, running from February 3 - March 17, 2023. A public reception will take place on February 10 from 5:30-7:00 pm. The exhibition includes faculty from UMaine's Department of Art: N.B. Aldrich, Diana Baumbach, Susan Camp, Tim Conte, Sam Jones, Robert Pollien, Susan L. Smith, Matt Smolinsky, Giles Timms.

Reception:
February 10, 5:30-7:00

Aldrich Norton & Ross Performance:
February 24, 4:00
Aldrich, Diana Baumbach, Susan Camp, Tim Conte, Sam Jones, Robert Pollien, Susan L. Smith, Matt Smolinsky, and Giles Timms. A diverse range of artwork will be on view including painting, site-specific installation, social practice, animation, and more. The trio Aldrich Norton & Ross will perform live in the Gallery on February 23rd at 4:00pm.

If you are interested in a class visit, outreach activities or have any questions please contact Diana Baumbach, Gallery Director (diana.baumbach@maine.edu).

The Gallery is located in Lord Hall and is open Monday-Friday from 9:00am-4:00pm. Events are free, accessible and open to the public. All are welcome.

The Department of Modern Languages and Classics is hosting a talk by visiting Colby College assistant professor of anthropology Giancarlo Rolando. The talk, titled "Mismatched Expectations: Collaborative Conservation in Peruvian Amazonia," is scheduled to take place from 5-6:30 PM on Thursday, February 2, at Hill Auditorium, located in 165 Barrows Hall. For more information, contact Carlos Villacorta here.

On Thursday, February 16 at 5:00 pm in Hill Auditorium, 165 Barrows Hall, the Department of Modern Languages and Classics welcomes Sandra Bernal Heredia (Spanish, Colby College) for a talk titled "Narrating Lives: Creation of Comics by Heritage Learners." Bernal Heredia's talk, which is free and open to the public, will explore how creating comics can develop both visual and narrative skills while also serving to reflect and transmitting trauma, emotions, and memory.

On Tuesday, February 28 at 7:00 pm, Rabbi Beth Lieberman will give a talk on the history of Jewish translations of the Hebrew Bible, offer a glimpse into the translation process for the forthcoming JPS TANAKH: Gender-Sensitive Edition, and explore its game-changing potential for the next generation. Rabbi Beth Lieberman served as literary editor and a revising translator of the JPS TANAKH: Gender-Sensitive Edition. She is the founder of Textish, an organization whose focus is producing innovative literary works of Jewish scholarship, culture, and practice. Register for ZOOM link here.

On Sunday, February 26 at 2:00 pm, the MHC continues its 2022-23 pre-performance lecture series at the Collins Center for the Arts, with a talk by School of Performing Arts faculty member Marisa Solomon in the Bodwell Lounge, before the Dreamers' Circus take the stage of Minsky Recital Hall. Solomon received performance degrees from the Oberlin College and San Francisco Conservatories of Music. She is an avid chamber musician, teacher and performer, and was a founding member of the Hancock St. Quartet, Nor’easter Quartet, and Cormier Trio. This event is free and open to the public.
Upcoming programming in the UMaine School of Performing Arts includes the Maine Masque's production of *Face Value* (February 23 to 26); the faculty Cadenzato concert (February 25) and the Resinosa Ensemble (March 4). For a full list of SPA performances, visit their calendar at [umaine.edu/spa/events](http://umaine.edu/spa/events).

On Tuesday, February 28 at 4:00 pm in Williams Hall 120, the Department of Modern Languages and Classics will present a talk by Danila Cannamela (Department of French and Italian, Colby College) titled "Italian Trans Geographies: Retracing Trans/Cultural Narratives of People and Places." This event supported by the MHC and the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series, is free to attend and will be lightly catered.

The University of Maine will hold the 2023 International Dance Festival on Saturday, February 11 at the Collins Center for the Arts. The annual event will showcase traditional music, dance and costumes from around the world that are representative of the diverse student body at UMaine. The two shows will take place at 2 and 7 p.m. and feature performers from both the campus and surrounding community. Admission is free.
A new book from a University of Maine faculty member takes a deep dive into an underexplored aspect of medieval Christianity.

Joel Anderson, assistant professor of history, has just seen the release of his new book. Titled *Reimagining Christendom: Writing Iceland’s Bishops into the Roman Church, 1200-1350*, the book is published by the University of Pennsylvania Press.

The book revolves around a group of medieval Icelandic texts known as the bishops’ sagas and examines how the writers of those narratives appropriated the laws and documents of the Roman church in an effort to advance their own local agendas.

This is a work more than a decade in the making, starting with Anderson’s foray into graduate school.

“After completing my undergraduate degree, I was fortunate to spend a few years abroad in two different medieval studies master’s programs, one in Norway and one in Iceland,” Anderson said. “These experiences introduced me to the genre of texts that would form the main source material for my book: the so-called bishops’ sagas.”

The sagas were written in Iceland in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, telling the life stories of the island’s bishops. But while some Icelandic sagas have received a good deal of literary acclaim, the tales of these clerics haven’t gotten nearly the same level of attention – a fact that Anderson seeks to rectify.

“Compared to their celebrated literary cousins, the sagas of Icelanders, the bishops’ sagas have received
little study or appreciation,” he said. “In my estimation, however, the tales of Iceland’s medieval bishops are quirky and inventive, even fun.”

Read More . . .

**Associate professor of history and Native American studies Micah Pawling** recently had a book review published in *American Review of Canadian Studies*. Pawling’s review of Daniel Rück’s book *The Laws and the Land: The Settler Colonial Invasion of Kahnawà:ke in Nineteenth-Century Canada* can be found [here](#).

**Associate professor of sociology** and recipient of a 2022 MHC faculty grant **Karyn Sporer** recently published her research on grief, family violence and identity construction in the *Journal of Family Trauma, Child Custody, & Child Development*. The full article can be found [here](#).

The Maine Press Association awarded scholarships to three Maine journalism students in January — two of them from the University of Maine. Recipients of 2023 scholarships included **Grace Bradley** a UMaine senior and editor-in-chief of the Maine Campus, and **Hope Carroll** a UMaine junior and opinion contributor to The Maine Campus. The Maine Press Association awards scholarships every year to a junior or senior with financial need who plans to pursue a career in journalism.

**Michael Socolow**, associate professor of media history and former MHC director, wrote an article for *Slate* about the journalistic and cultural impact of **Barbara Walters**. “For all her intrusive questions, her skillful interrogating, her sharp and incisive commentary, Walters’ legacy extends far beyond those famous interviews. She provided a model for women to unapologetically pursue their ambition, no matter how often it got them called ‘rude,’” Socolow wrote.

**UMAINE HUMANITIES IN THE NEWS**

**Asif Nawaz**, assistant professor of history and international affairs, spoke to [News Center Maine](#) about extremism in light of 19-year-old Mainer attacking three police officers at a New Year’s celebration in New York City. Nawaz said the accused’s age, isolation, and family dynamic made him a prime target for online extremism groups, and more resources need to be implemented at the local level to intervene and help youth who fall into extremism online. “I am not asking you to empathize with a terrorist. I am saying that in order to curb this home-grown radicalization, we need to have a very, very comprehensive look from the bottom up, not top-down; bottom-up change in
which a dialogue needs to happen," Nawaz said.

*BroadwayWorld* recently announced its *Best of Maine 2022* award winners. One of the honorees was professor of theatre Dan Bilodeau, who won the award for *Best Lighting Design (Professional)* for his work on Theatre at Monmouth's summer production of *Eurydice*.

In December, Maine Public broadcast historian Heather Cox Richardson’s MHC talk on the "Future of the Humanities" as part of its Speaking in Maine series. The event, a conversation between Richardson and longtime NPR reporter Brian Naylor, marked the culmination of the 10th anniversary of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center, and is archived for listening on the Maine Public website.

Assistant professor of theatre D Granke received rave reviews for their "outstanding" fight direction in a recent production of *Hamlet* at a theater in Florida. You can read the full *Broadway World* review of Tampa's Jobsite Theater's production here.

Karyn Sporer, associate professor of sociology and Rob Glover, associate professor of political science, teamed up on an op-ed for the *Bangor Daily News*. The pair write about the need for Governor Janet Mills to execute a more robust response to Maine's opioid epidemic.

Michael Howard, emeritus professor of philosophy, recently contributed an op-ed to *Scientific American*. In the piece, which is titled "The U.S. Could Help Solve Its Poverty Problem with a Universal Basic Income" and can be found here, Howard addresses some of the nuances and misconceptions surrounding the notion of UBI.

*The Portland Press Herald* and *Literary Hub* reported that *Night of the Living Rez* by Morgan Talty, assistant professor of English, was named one of three finalists for The Story Prize, which honors American short story collections. *Yahoo News* shared the PPH report.

*Steven Barkan, emeritus professor of sociology*, was quoted in an article, titled "Does Criminology Have a Crime Problem? Not at All, Experts Say," in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. "In my career, I never had an undergraduate or graduate student who was studying criminology to commit crimes," he said. "Actually, students took my courses because they wanted to prevent and reduce crime."
Longreads featured a story from Night of the Living Rez by Morgan Talty, assistant professor of English at the University of Maine, in a roundup of 10 outstanding stories to read in 2023.

The Sun Journal reported on the University of Maine’s role in a Maine State Library project to digitize French language newspapers published in Maine. The article noted that the Franco-American Collection of the University of Maine also has extensive holdings of the newspaper Le Messager, which was published between 1880 and 1968. Jacob Albert, a librarian archivist and project manager of UMaine’s Franco American Portal, has been involved in the digital project for the past three years. “It illuminates connections between the French speaking communities that were not covered by the English papers,” Albert said. Yahoo News shared the Sun Journal report.

Karyn Sporer, associate professor of sociology, also spoke to WMTW-TV (Channel 8 in Portland) about the path to violent extremism in light of a 19-year-old Mainer being accused of attacking an New York police officer on New Year’s Eve. Sporer explained that the process of radicalization is complicated, but common factors can include a person being exposed to propaganda and traumatic life events. “All that together can put someone on trajectory towards violent extremism,” she said.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HUMANITIES

ACLS Leading Edge Fellowships
https://www.acls.org/competitions/acls-leading-edge-fellowships/
Deadline: March 15
Leading Edge Fellowships place recent humanities PhDs with nonprofit organizations committed to promoting social justice in their communities.

American Philosophical Society Digital Humanities Fellowship
https://www.amphilsoc.org/grants/digital-humanities-fellowships
Deadline: March 3
The Center for Digital Scholarship (CDS) at the American Philosophical Society invites applications for Digital Humanities Fellowships at the American Philosophical Society’s Library & Museum. These fellowships, for up to 2 months, are open to scholars at all stages of their careers.

American Philosophical Society-NEH Sabbatical Fellowships
https://www.amphilsoc.org/grants/aps-neh-sabbatical-fellowships
Deadline: February 3
The American Philosophical Society’s Library & Museum invites applications from mid-career or senior scholars in all fields seeking sabbatical support for the completion of a book project. These opportunities are funded by The National Endowment for the Humanities and provide six or twelve months of research support in the Society’s collections for persons who have already completed their formal professional
Maine Humanities Council Mini Grants
https://www.mainehumanities.org/programs-grants/grants/mini-grant/
Deadline: March 21
Up to $2,000 for humanities programs and projects undertaken by nonprofit organizations across Maine. Funding match or cost-share is required. Organizations serving and/or led by members of communities traditionally under-resourced in the humanities are encouraged to apply.

National Endowment for the Arts Research Awards
https://www.arts.gov/grants/research-awards
Deadline: March 27
Research Grants in the Arts funds research studies that investigate the value and/or impact of the arts, either as individual components of the U.S. arts ecology or as they interact with each other and/or with other domains of American life. Matching/cost share grants of $20,000 to $100,000 will be awarded.

National Endowment for the Humanities
https://www.neh.gov/grants/research/fellowships
Deadline: April 12
NEH Fellowships are competitive awards granted to individual scholars pursuing projects that embody exceptional research, rigorous analysis, and clear writing. Applications must clearly articulate a project’s value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both.

University of Maine Office of Research Development Funding Opportunities Website

The University of Maine Office of Research Development maintains a regularly-updated grant funding opportunity website:

https://sites.google.com/a/umaine.edu/funding-opportunities/?pli=1

Please note: this website is internal to the UMaine research community, and updated weekly with a curated list of grant solicitations. The site also contains instructions on how individuals can access PIVOT, UMaine’s subscription grant-seeking database, to customize searches based on individual research and scholarship interests.

Bookmark the page so that you can easily check each week for new relevant opportunities!
Check out the MHC Speakers Bureau

The Faculty Advisory Group of the Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center represents 16 departments and units at UMaine with expertise in the humanities and the humanistically oriented social sciences.

*In order to make our work better known to the general public, advisory group members welcome media inquiries on topics relevant to their expertise, and are excited to share their work in public lectures with organizations throughout the State of Maine without a fee.*

For more information about the MHC Speakers Bureau program and for a list of speakers and their areas of expertise, visit our Speakers Bureau page.

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Any questions? Contact brian.jansen@maine.edu or mhc@maine.edu.